

AS
characterised in that stainless steel is used for the metal fibre thread (5 to 12) and for the metal wire (2 to 4).

28. The use of a cloth, net or mesh in accordance with claim 16 for depth filtration.

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to the related application has been inserted on page 1. Also, claims 1-15 have been replaced by new claims 16-28. No new matter has been introduced.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa L. Vulpis

Marked-up Version of Prior Pending ParagraphsShowing the Changes Made

On page 2, please replace the second complete paragraph with the following paragraph:

--A less expensive manufacturing process of a sieve suitable for depth filtration provides for metal filaments to be thermally sintered on a wire mesh before the planar structural element is rolled (see also NL-A-8 105 081). A planar structural element suitable for depth filtration is produced by this method also, however this has the disadvantage that the filaments cannot be joined in absolutely homogeneous manner, which causes fluctuations in the density distribution. As a result, the sieve cannot be aligned optimally, which in turn leads to compromises in determining the maximum pore size and filter area available for use.--

On page 2, please replace the fourth complete paragraph with the following paragraph:

--The object of the invention is therefore to improve a planar structural element, particularly for filtration, such that optimal filtration results can be obtained with a planar structural element that is inexpensive to produce. This object is

solved in that a metal fibre thread is introduced between metal wire[.] and in which a single capillary has a diameter less than 100 μm , preferably less than 30 μm , wherein a section through the metal fibre thread (5 to 12) is provided with more than 100, preferably more than 500 individual capillaries.--